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RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 6850
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RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4889
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6095
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2469
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0171
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 4213
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UNCLAS KATHMANDU 000682

SIPDIS

ROME FOR MISSION TO FAO

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NEPAL TO SUPPORT U.S. CANDIDATE FOR CODEX

REF: SECSTATE 50336

Post Formally Requests Support For U.S. Candidate

11. (U) On June 2, per reftel Post sent a diplomatic note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with copies to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC), requesting the Government of Nepal's (GON's) support for the U.S. nominee to chair the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), Dr. Karen Hulebak. The note informed the GON that the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization commission will be holding its 31st session in Geneva June 30-July 4. The MoAC copies went to the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Tek Bahadur Thapa, and the Director General of the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Mr. Uttam Kumar Bhattarai.

Agriculture Secretary Supportive; MFA Uninformed

12. (U) On June 4, Mr. Thapa assured Emboffs of Nepal's support for Dr. Hulebak's candidacy. On June 5, Mr. Bhattarai confirmed to Emboff that Nepal supported the U.S. candidate, whom he said he knew personally and held in high regard. Bhattarai added, however, that the GON would not be able to send a representative to the meeting, and expressed uncertainty about how Nepal's support would be communicated. In a separate conversation on June 16, Mr. Rudra Nepal, Under Secretary for UN and International Organizations Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), stated that the GON had not made a final decision on this, but it was likely that the MFA would inform Nepal's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva of their support for Dr. Hulebak's candidacy and authorize the representative to vote on behalf of Nepal.
POWELL